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FOR AMBASSADOR, DCMS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS ONLY, FROM AF

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, US, XA

SUBJECT: AFRICA BUREAU FRIDAY REPORT, 04/08/94

USUN FOR SHESTACK, LONDON FOR MCKINLEY, PARIS FOR PERLOW,

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
EDWARD W. HOLMES

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LISBON FOR DAVIS

1. (LOU) "FRIDAY REPORT", PREPARED FOR A/S WEEKLY MEETING, FOLLOWS. SOME OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT IS SENSITIVE, DEALING WITH INTERAGENCY MATTERS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION OR REVIEW. DISTRIBUTION SHOULD THEREFORE BE CONFINED TO STATE PERSONNEL.

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT: FRIDAY REPORT 4/08/94

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3. (U) AF

A/S MOOSE COMPLETED THE EAST AFRICA PORTION OF HIS TRIP THIS WEEK. HE TRAVELED TO TANZANIA, UGANDA, KENYA, SOMALIA, AND EGYPT. MR. MOOSE IS ON HIS WAY BACK TO WASHINGTON TODAY (3/8).

4. (C) AF/C

RWANDA/BURUNDI

-- DOUBLE TRAGEDY FOR BELEAGUERED COUNTRIES:
 AF/C'S TOTAL ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON RESPONDING TO THE TRAGEDY UNFOLDING IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI IN THE WAKE OF THE DEATH OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, WHEN THEIR AIRPLANE WAS SHOT DOWN NEAR KIGALI ON APRIL 6. A RWANDA/BURUNDI WORKING GROUP IS OPERATING 24 HOURS A DAY

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AND CAN BE REACHED AT (202) 647-6614.

THE SECURITY SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED SERIOUSLY IN KIGALI FOLLOWING THE APRIL 6 PLANE CRASH. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEGUN PLANNING FOR THE EVACUATION OF ALL AMERICANS (ABOUT 200) FROM RWANDA. SINCE THE AIRPORT RUNWAY IS CLOSED, WE MAY HAVE TO DO A LAND EVACUATION. THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION IN KIGALI WILL MAKE FINDING A SAFE EVACUATION POINT DIFFICULT. THUS FAR ALL AMCITS ARE BELIEVED SAFE. THERE IS A RISK OF CIVIL WAR BREAKING OUT AGAIN, IF UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT RPF TROOPS HAVE LEFT THEIR POSITIONS IN THE NORTH AND ARE HEADING SOUTH TURN OUT TO BE TRUE. THE SECURITY SITUATION IN BUJUMBURA

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AS FORTUNATELY REMAINED CALM SINCE THE NIGHT OF APRIL 6.
EMBASSY BUJUMBURA HAS ALSO BEEN PLACED ON ORDERED
DEPARTURE STATUS FOR NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL.

CAMEROON

-- BAKASSI BURBLING ALONG:
THE CAMEROONIANS CONTINUE THEIR DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE TO PRESENT CAMEROON'S CLAIM TO BAKASSI TO FOREIGN CAPITALS. DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE PRESIDENCY, EPHRAIM INONI WILL MEET WITH AMBASSADOR WALKER IN NEW YORK ON FRIDAY AND WILL ALSO CALL IN THE DEPARTMENT WHILE IN THE U.S. CAMEROON HOPES ITS REFERRAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE WILL RESULT IN A FINDING OF CAMEROONIAN

SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE AREA, AND AN ORDER FOR NIGERIA TO WITHDRAW AND PAY REPARATIONS.

CHAD

-- LIBYA TO ABANDON AOZOU?:
GREAT SURPRISE REIGNED IN NDJAMENA WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN APRIL 4 AGREEMENT SIGNED IN TRIPOLI BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF LIBYA AND CHAD IN WHICH LIBYA AGREES TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM THE DISPUTED AOZOU STRIP BORDER AREA. CHAD'S PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO HAVE THE FEBRUARY 3 ICJ RULING IMPLEMENTED AND REGAIN CONTROL OVER THE AOZOU WERE MET WITH LIBYAN STONEWALLING AND DIVERSIONARY TACTICS.

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THUS, LIBYA'S SUDDEN ACQUIESCENCE MAY BE BASED ON FEAR OF TOUGHER SANCTIONS WHEN THE UPCOMING 120-DAY UN SANCTIONS REVIEW IS HELD. IN A SHORT TIME WE WILL KNOW HOW SINCERE

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QADHAFI IS ABOUT LEAVING THE AOZOU, AS THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL TO BEGIN APRIL 15.

CONGO

-- STRIKE ORGANIZERS STRIKE OUT:
AN APRIL 5 GENERAL STRIKE CALLED BY THE NEWLY-FORMED CSTC (UNION CONFEDERATION OF CONGOLESE WORKERS) FIZZLED COMPLETELY. DESPITE A PROLIFERATION OF FLIERS AND TRACTS WARNING OF DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT HEED THE CALL TO STRIKE, LIFE IN BRAZZAVILLE CONTINUED AT ITS USUAL PACE ON APRIL 5. TAXIS AND BUSES RAN NORMALLY MARKETS WERE BUSTLING, AND CIVIL SERVANTS REPORTED TO WORK IN THE MINISTRIES. EMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE ATTRIBUTES THE STRIKE'S FAILURE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT TO TREAT SALARY ARREARS AS "INTERNAL DEBT," THE EXORBITANT CSTC DEMANDS (SUCH AS A 70 PERCENT SALARY INCREASE) WHICH HAD LITTLE POLITICAL SUPPORT, AND CONGOLESE WORKERS' DISTRUST OF UNION LEADERS.

GABON

-- WARM FUZZIES FROM THE NEW FORMIN:
NEWLY INSTALLED GOG FOREIGN MINISTER JEAN PING WAITED ONLY 15 MINUTES AFTER HIS APRIL 5 INSTALLATION CEREMONY TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR WILSON. PING EXPRESSED HIS AND PRESIDENT BONGO'S DESIRE TO RESTORE U.S.-GABONESE RELATIONS TO THE HEIGHTS OF "THE GOOD OLD DAYS." PING PROMISED AN END TO GOVERNMENT PRESS ATTACKS ON AMBASSADOR WILSON, A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BONGO, AND THE TRAVEL OF A HIGH-LEVEL GOG DELEGATION TO THE U.S. NEXT MONTH. PING

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EXCUSED THE FEBRUARY DESTRUCTION OF RADIO LIBERTE AND

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OPPOSITION LEADER PERE ABESSOLE'S HOUSE AS BEING PART OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO ASSURE SECURITY OF ITS CITIZENS AND PROMISED A FULL AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF THE IMMIGRANT DEATHS AND PUNISHMENT OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE. AN APRIL 7 LETTER FROM PING REITERATED THE POINTS HE MADE IN THE MEETING AND SAID THAT THE GOG WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT TO REINFORCE THE "SINCERE FRIENDSHIP" WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN GABON AND THE U.S. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER GOG ACTIONS WILL LIVE UP TO THE GOVERNMENT'S LOFTY RHETORIC.

ZAIRE

-- MOVES TOWARD A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT?:
THE VOTE LAST WEEK IN ZAIRE'S HCR-PARLIAMENT OF TRANSITION ON THE ISSUE OF THE PRIME MINISTER MAY SIGNAL SOME MOVEMENT IN THE LONG-STALLED TRANSITION. THE VOTE ON MARCH 30 DECLARED THE PM'S OFFICE VACANT. AND CALLED ON THE POLITICAL CLASS TO SELECT A PM FROM THE RANKS OF THE OPPOSITION WITHIN 10 DAYS (FAILING WHICH THE ISSUE WOULD BE REFERRED BACK TO PARLIAMENT). TSHISEKEDI'S PARTISANS SEEM TO BE HEADING TOWARD REJECTION OF THIS DECISION; A MORE "MODERATE" BLOC WITHIN THE OPPOSITION HOLY UNION HAS SIGNALLED THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE VOTE. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT WHETHER TSHISEKEDI AND THE UDPS WILL ABANDON THE HCR-PT, BUT THE USG AND ITS TRILATERAL PARTNERS MAY SOON BE FACED WITH A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT "OF NATIONAL UNITY" SANS TSHISEKEDI.

5. (C) AF/E

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ETHIOPIA

- HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRATIZATION CORRESPONDENCE SURGES:
RECENT MONTHS HAVE SEEN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIZATION ISSUES IN ETHIOPIA. WHILE SOME OF THIS GROWTH IS DUE TO CONCERN ABOUT PARTICULAR CASES (MAINLY PERSONS DETAINED OR SUSPECTED OF BEING DETAINED), THE INCREASE ALSO SUGGESTS GREATER ACTIVITY BY THE ETHIOPIAN EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY ON THESE ISSUES.

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ERITREA

-- AIRLINE SERVICE REDUCED, FURTHER CUTS POSSIBLE:
REFLECTING PROBLEMS IN NEGOTIATING TRAFFIC RIGHTS AS WELL
AS THE LIMITED PROFITABILITY OF THE STOP, AIRLINE SERVICE
TO ASMARA HAS SUFFERED SOME REDUCTIONS RECENTLY. FLIGHTS

FROM CAIRO TO ASMARA HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED AND
THE WEEKLY (SUNDAY) LONDON-TO-ADDIS FLIGHT BY ETHIOPIAN
AIRLINES MAY LOSE ITS ASMARA STOP. ERITREAN AUTHORITIES
ARE CONSIDERING DEVELOPING ERITREAN AIRLINES (NOW ONLY A
GROUND HANDLING SERVICE) INTO A REAL AIRLINE, POSSIBLY AS
A JOINT VENTURE.

MADAGASCAR

-- PRIME MINISTER UPBEAT IN DEPARTMENT MEETINGS:
PRIME MINISTER RAVONY WAS FRANK AND UPBEAT IN MEETINGS
WITH UNDER SECRETARIES TARNOFF AND SPERO ON APRIL 7. HE
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EXCUSED RECENT MALAGASY SHORTCOMINGS ON ECONOMIC REFORM
AND POLITICAL DECISIONMAKING AS BEING PART OF THE
DEMOCRATIC APPRENTICESHIP, AFFIRMING THAT HE WILL NOW
ASSERT HIS POLITICAL AUTHORITY. HIS ECONOMIC TEAM
(ECONOMY, FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTERS) HAVE BEEN
MEETING WITH THE IFI'S ALL WEEK TO WORK OUT AN AIDE
MEMOIRE ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. THE UNDER SECRETARIES
EMPHASIZED THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS A KEY TO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT TO ATTRACT IT MADAGASCAR SHOULD
IMPROVE ITS INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND RAISE ITS INTERNATIONAL
VISIBILITY.

SEYCHELLES

-- GOS TO KEEP SMUGGLED ARMS:
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE SEYCHELLES COURT DISMISSED
AN APPEAL ON THE FORFEITURE ORDER AGAINST THE M/V MARIA,
THE GREEK-OWNED SHIP WHICH TRIED TO SMUGGLE ALMOST 400
TONS OF ARMS TO SOMALIA LAST YEAR. THE GOS IS NOW FREE TO
DISPOSE OF THE MARIA AND ITS ARMS AS IT SEES FIT. SINCE
THE SEYCHELLES ARMED FORCES ARE TINY, MUCH OF THE CARGO

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WILL PROBABLY BE SOLD.

TANZANIA

-- ELECTORAL IMPROVEMENTS:
IN ANTICIPATION OF THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION ON JUNE 19, THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (NEC) HAS INSTITUTED WELCOME CHANGES IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. THE VOTER REGISTRATION PERIOD WAS BEEN EXTENDED FROM TWO TO THREE WEEKS AND THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD FROM TWO TO MORE THAN

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10 WEEKS. FURTHERMORE, OPPOSITION PARTY REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESS. THESE CHANGES SHOULD HELP LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD SOMEWHAT BETWEEN THE RULING CCM AND THE THIRTEEN OPPOSITION PARTIES. AF/E HAS PASSED THIS INFORMATION TO

IRI, WHICH HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN DEMOCRATIZATION ASSISTANCE. AF AND THE EMBASSY HAVE ALSO GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD TO AAI TO GET INVOLVED IN AREAS NOT COVERED BY IRI.

SUDAN

-- PRESS REACTS TO ALBRIGHT'S STATEMENTS:
IN THE WAKE OF AMBASSADOR ALBRIGHT'S APRIL 1 PRESS
CONFERENCE IN ADDIS ABABA SUDANESE GOVERNMENT (GOS)
REACTIONS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, TO HER VISIT HAVE
BECOME MORE SHRILL. THE GOS-CONTROLLED PRESS IS REHASHING
FAMILIAR ANTI-U.S. CHARGES, SUCH AS THE USG IS HELPING THE
SUDANESE PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY (SPLA) AND IS HOSTILE TO
ISLAM. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
STILL SAYS IT WELCOMES DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S. -- ALTHOUGH
THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS COME UNDER THINLY-VEILED ATTACK
& JOURNALISTIC HARD-LINERS FOR HOPING THAT A NEW START IN
RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WAS POSSIBLE.

-- FORMER PRIME MINISTER ARRESTED:
ON APRIL 5 THE GOS ARRESTED SUDAN'S MAJOR OPPOSITION
FIGURES, FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND UMMA PARTY LEADER
SADIQ-EL-MAHDI. HE WAS RELEASED THE NEXT DAY PROBABLY
BECAUSE OF THE UNFAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION HIS

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ARREST ATTRACTED. THE IMMEDIATE REASON FOR THE ARREST
PROBABLY WAS HIS INCREASING PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE
REGIME. MORE GENERALLY, HOWEVER, THE ARREST IS PART OF A
PATTERN OF GROWING GOS REPRESSION OF DISSENT AS SUDAN'S
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PROBLEMS MOUNT.

SOMALIA

-- REIMBURSEMENT ISSUE ON THE ROAD TO SETTLEMENT:
NEGOTIATIONS ARE NEARING AN END FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROVIDED BY STATE. DOD HAS COME
ON BOARD BUT IT MUST STILL DESIGNATE WHICH ELEMENT OF THE
DEPARTMENT WILL ACTUALLY PAY. FOR THE FIRST QUARTER,
STATE HAS AGREED NOT TO CHARGE DOD FOR USE OF THE
HELICOPTER SERVICE FOR WHICH WE HAVE CONTRACTED AND
DEFENSE HAS DECIDED NOT TO CHARGE FOR THE FIXED-WING
SUPPORT FOR WHICH THEY HAVE CONTRACTED.

-- KIDNAPPED AMERICAN RELEASED:
ALFRED PETTERS, AN AMERICAN WORKING WITH THE ICRC WHO WAS
KIDNAPPED DURING A VIOLENT CARJACKING ON MARCH 31, WAS
RELEASED UNHARMED ON APRIL 3. THE ICRC HANDLED
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE KIDNAPPERS, WHO MAY HAVE BEEN
MOTIVATED BY A DISPUTE INVOLVING PETTERS DURING A PREVIOUS
STINT IN SOMALIA.

6. (U) AF/EPS

-- AEPRP IN FRANC ZONE COUNTRIES:
AID IS LOOKING AT A TWO-TRACK RESPONSE TO THE CFA
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DEVALUATION. THE FIRST WOULD MORE QUICKLY DISBURSE
EXISTING PROGRAM FUNDS ON THE GROUND IN EACH COUNTRY, A
PROCESS WHICH IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. THE SECOND RESPONSE
WOULD PUT USD 17 MILLION OF AFRICAN ECONOMIC POLICY REFORM

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PROGRAM FUNDS (AEPRP) INTO EXISTING NON-PROJECT ASSISTANCE VEHICLES TO EXPAND OR MOVE DISBURSEMENTS MORE QUICKLY.

AFR IS PLANNING TO USE THE AEPRP FUNDS FOR SHORT-TERM BRIDGING PROJECTS, E.G., PURCHASE OF PHARMACEUTICALS, IN SENEGAL, NIGER, AND MALI. IT APPEARS THAT AID WILL CONCENTRATE THE FUNDS IN THESE THREE COUNTRIES TO ENSURE THAT SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE TO EACH (APPROXIMATELY USD 4 MILLION IN EACH COUNTRY, THOUGH THIS FIGURE IS VERY TENTATIVE). AFR HAS INDICATED THAT COUNTRIES WITHOUT AID MISSIONS IN THE REGION WILL NOT RECEIVE AEPRP GRANTS.

A PORTION OF THE AEPRP MONEY WILL BE UTILIZED TO HELP START UP A REGIONAL MONITORING SYSTEM (PLANNED AS A THREE-YEAR PROGRAM) THAT WOULD MEASURE THE IMPACT OF THE DEVALUATION. OTHER DONORS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THIS EFFORT. ADDITIONALLY, AFR IS LOOKING AT A LONGER-TERM PROJECT (FOUR YEARS) THAT WOULD CREATE A REGIONAL AEPRP PROJECT. THAT PROJECT WOULD CONDITION ASSISTANCE ON COUNTRIES MEETING REGIONAL TRADE OBJECTIVES SUCH AS THE LOWERING OF TRADE BARRIERS. THIS EFFORT IS STILL VERY MUCH IN THE EARLY PLANNING STAGES. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ACTUAL RESERVATION OF USD 17 MILLION IN AEPRP FOR FRANC ZONE USE, NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY AID/AFR CONCERNING THE OBLIGATION OF THESE FUNDS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN OUR WEEKLY MEETINGS

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BETWEEN DAS BUSHNELL AND AID/AFR DAA PEASLEY.

-- PPDA'S PROGRESS ON THE HILL:
ACCORDING TO H, THE PPDA (THE PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 1994, AKA THE FAA REWRITE) IS TO BE MARKED UP BY THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SOMETIME AFTER THE EASTER RECESS ENDS, PERHAPS BY LATE APRIL. THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IS REPORTEDLY DRAFTING ITS OWN VERSION. MEANWHILE, CHAIRMAN HAMILTON DOESN'T

WANT TO TRY TO BRING THE PPDA TO THE HOUSE FLOOR UNLESS HE CAN GET A COMMITMENT FROM SENATOR SARBANES THAT THE SENATE WILL GIVE THE BILL FLOOR TIME. SARBANES HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GIVE HIM THIS COMMITMENT. SO THE SUBCOMMITTEES MAY

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MARK UP, AND FULL COMMITTEES MAY EVEN REPORT OUT BILLS
BUT ENACTMENT OF THE PPDA IS LOOKING BLEAK RIGHT NOW

7. (U) AF/EX

-- BUDGET NEWS:

THE AF BUDGET OFFICE WILL COMPLETE A REVIEW OF MID-YEAR FINANCIAL PLANS NEXT WEEK AND WILL BRIEF MANAGEMENT. ADJUSTMENTS TO POST ALLOTMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER APRIL 15 TO REFLECT ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF POST REQUIREMENTS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES RETAINED AT THE BUREAU LEVEL. FAAS (REIMBURSEMENT) HEARINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR LATE APRIL; THEREFORE, TOTAL RESOURCES DUE ALLOTTEES IN THIS ALLOTMENT MAY BE SUBJECT TO ONE FINAL ADJUSTMENT IN MAY 1994.

8. AF/RA

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-- AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES:
HOWARD UNIVERSITY'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CENTER HOSTED A CONFERENCE ENTITLED "AN AFRICAN AGENDA FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE NEW GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT" APRIL 7-8. AMBASSADOR DANE SMITH, DIPLOMAT IN RESIDENCE AT HOWARD, ORGANIZED THE CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO BRING A SELECT GROUP OF AFRICANS TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN FRIENDS OF AFRICA AND DONOR REPRESENTATIVES TO FORMULATE STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT AFRICA. PARTICIPANTS WERE MOSTLY AFRICAN, MANY LIVING IN THE U.S., SOME WORKING AT EMBASSIES, UN ORGANIZATIONS, NGO'S, PVO'S, AND UNIVERSITIES. FOCUS WAS ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES, INCLUDING PANEL SESSIONS ON AIDS AND POPULATION, FAMINE AND DISEASE, REFUGEES AND MIGRATION, AND FAMILY STRUCTURES AND RELATIONSHIPS. PRESENTATIONS WERE QUITE GOOD, AND GENERATED QUESTIONS FROM THE DIVERSE AUDIENCE ABOUT ISSUES SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL COOPERATION, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND THE ROLE OF DONOR COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FUTURE OF AFRICA. A SECOND CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE THIS SPRING AT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY WITH A CONCENTRATION ON ECONOMIC AND NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES.

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SOUTH AFRICA

-- FRIDAY'S DE KLERK/MANDELA/BUTHELEZI/GOODWILL MEETING:
SPECULATION MOUNTS ON WHAT INCENTIVE THE SAG/ANC PLANS TO
PROPOSE TO THE ZULU KING AND BUTHELEZI THIS WEEKEND, TO
BACK THEM AWAY FROM CONFRONTATION. DURBAN INDICATES THE
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ANC WILL LIKELY PROPOSE THAT THE KING BE THE
CONSTITUTIONAL HEAD OF KWAZULU/NATAL, ADVISED BY AN
ELECTED PREMIER. THE ANC FLAUN ONLY ADDRESSES THE KING'S
STATUS, HOWEVER, WITH NO GUARANTEED STATUS FOR BUTHELEZI
OR THE 200-PLUS TRADITIONAL ZULU CHIEFS.

-- MEDIATION MOVES:
IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT HENRY KISSINGER, LORD
CARRINGTON, JUDGE HIGGINBOTHAM AND THE FIVE OTHER
MEDIATORS SELECTED BY THE ANC/IFP NEGOTIATORS WILL GO TO
SOUTH AFRICA EARLY NEXT WEEK TO MEET WITH THE THREE
PRINCIPALS AND TO SEE IF THERE IS A BASIS FOR
ACCOMMODATION. THE SECRETARY HAS TOLD KISSINGER HE HAS NO
OBJECTION TO HIS TAKING ON THIS MISSION AND THAT WE WILL
BE COOPERATIVE. ACCORDINGLY, AF WILL BRIEF KISSINGER
BEFORE HE LEAVES, AND PROVIDE A KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICER TO
ASSIST HIM AND JUDGE HIGGINBOTHAM AT THE PRIVATE RESORT
WHERE THE MEDIATORS ARE EXPECTED TO MEET MANDELA, DE
KLERK, AND BUTHELEZI.

-- IEC LAYS DOWN MARKER OVER KWAZULU VIOLENCE:
JOHANN KRIEGLER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL
COMMISSION (IEC), ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY THAT GIVEN THE
CURRENT CLIMATE OF POLITICAL INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE IN
KWAZULU, A SUBSTANTIALLY FREE AND FAIR ELECTION COULD NOT
BE HELD THERE. THE IEC DECLARATION IS A PART OF AN
INTERIM REPORT ON THE STATUS OF ELECTION PREPARATIONS.
THE IEC HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THIS IS NOT A RECOMMENDATION
TO CANCEL OR POSTPONE THE VOTE IN KWAZULU. IT DOES LAY
DOWN A MARKER FOR THE AGENDA FOR FRIDAY'S MEETING BETWEEN
DE KLERK, MANDELA, BUTHELEZI, AND THE ZULU KING.

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ANGOLA

-- NEGOTIATIONS GOING NOWHERE FAST:
TALKS REMAIN AT AN IMPASSE OVER THE ISSUE OF UNITA'S
PARTICIPATION IN A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.
THE GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO RESPOND TO THE MEDIATION'S
REVISED PACKAGE OUTLINING UNITA POSITIONS AT THE NATIONAL,
PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL LEVELS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT
INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES BOTH FOR THE PEACE PROCESS AND

LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CONCESSIONS
CONTAINED IN THE PACKAGE.

LESOTHO

-- PM OPENS NATIONAL DEBATE ON STATUS OF EX-KING:
RESPONDING BOTH TO ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY
PRESIDENTS MASIRE AND MUGABE TO DEFUSE THE CAUSES OF THE
RECENT INTRA-ARMY FIGHTING AND TO EX-KING MOSHOESHOE'S
APPEALS, PRIME MINISTER MOKHEHLE ASKED PARLIAMENT TO
DECIDE THE FORMER KING'S STATUS. MOSHOESHOE WHO IN THE
PAST HAS EXHIBITED A PENCHANT FOR MEDDLING IN POLITICS
WAS OUSTED IN 1990 BY A MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND REPLACED
AS CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH BY HIS SON, KING LETSIE III.
THE RULING BCP'S COMMONER LEANINGS MAKE MOSHOESHOE'S
RETURN TO THE THRONE UNLIKELY.

MALAWI

-- PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED WITHOUT ACTION ON CONSTITUTION:
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THE MALAWI PARLIAMENT ADJOURNED MARCH 31 WITHOUT
CONSIDERING THE NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION. HOWEVER,
PRESIDENT BANDA LEFT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY PARLIAMENT MIGHT
BE RECONVENED IF THE CONSTITUTION WAS READY FOR REVIEW AND
RATIFICATION BEFORE THE MAY 17 ELECTIONS. PRIOR TO
ADJOURNMENT, THE PARLIAMENT DISBANDED THE YOUNG PIONEERS;
APPROVED AN "ACTING PRESIDENT" PROVISION TO THE

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CONSTITUTION IN CASE OF INCAPACITATION OF THE PRESIDENT;
AND AMENDED THE ELECTION LAW TO PROVIDE FOR A VICE
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

MOZAMBIQUE

-- U.S. DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR NAMPULA PROVINCE:
IN AN INITIAL RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR JETT'S DECLARATION OF
A STATE OF DISASTER AND SUBSEQUENT SITREPS, THE U.S. IS
PROVIDING 1.5 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF PLASTIC SHEETING FOR
USE IN TEMPORARILY SHELTERING THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS
LEFT HOMELESS IN NAMPULA PROVINCE BY CYCLONE NADIA. THE
MATERIALS WILL BE DELIVERED FROM OFDA STOCKS IN ITALY BY
USAF AIRCRAFT AND ARE BEING ACCCOMPANIED BY A DISASTER
MANAGEMENT EXPERT WHO WILL ASSIST GRM OFFICIALS IN
ORGANIZING A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATION.
NADIA STRUCK THE NORTHERN PROVINCE ON MARCH 24, INFlicting
HEAVY DAMAGE ON THE PORT CITY OF NACALA AND SURROUNDING
COASTAL DISTRICTS. APPROXIMATELY 230 INJURED PERSONS AND
54 DEATHS HAVE SO FAR BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE STORM,
NUMBERS DESCRIBED BY THE EMBASSY AS MIRACULOUSLY LOW GIVEN
NADIA'S EXTENT AND INTENSITY.

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NAMIBIA

-- FM GURIRAB INDEPENDENCE SPEECH: LADDER-CLIMBING?
FM GURIRAB, STANDING IN FOR PRESIDENT NUJOMA, DELIVERED A
LESS-THAN-ROUSING INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH. BESIDES THE
USUAL RHETORIC ABOUT JOB CREATION, EDUCATION, TRADE
PROMOTION, ETC., GURIRAB ALSO JABBED AT THE "PITIFUL"
POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND THE "DISTORTING AND BULLYING"
PRESS. SOME SWAPO INSIDERS CLAIM GURIRAB'S SPEECH IS PART
OF HIS CONTINUING EFFORT, EMBOLDENED BY HIS SUCCESS ON
WALVIS BAY, TO LINE HIMSELF UP FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S
JOB AFTER THE UPCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. BY ALL
ACCOUNTS GURIRAB LACKS BOTH POPULAR SUPPORT AND THAT OF
THE SWAPO POLITBURO TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

ZAMBIA

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-- INFLATION DROPS; INTEREST RATES STILL HIGH:
AS EXPECTED, INFLATION DROPPED IN MARCH TO TWO PERCENT,
DOWN FROM 6.1 IN JANUARY AND 4.9 IN FEBRUARY. THE DECLINE
CONFIRMS THAT CONTINUED TIGHT FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICY
HAVE TAMED MUCH OF THE UNDERLYING INFLATIONARY PRESSURE IN
THE ZAMBIAN ECONOMY. HOWEVER, BANK INTEREST RATES
REMAINED IN THE 95-100 FERCENT RANGE, SLOWING A BUSINESS
RESPONSE TO THE RELATIVELY STABLE MACROECONOMIC SITUATION.

ZIMBABWE

-- INFLATION DOWN; HARVEST ADEQUATE:
AS ECONOMIC REFORMS PROCEED, ZIMBABWE'S INFLATION RATE HAS
FALLEN TO AN ANNUALIZED RATE OF 13 FERCENT. UNFORTUNATELY,
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MEDIocre rains will keep economic growth in the 3-4
percent range. However, the harvest will yield more than
enough maize to feed the population. In fact, there is
likely to be enough maize to maintain a substantial
reserve and to export to drought-stricken neighbors.

10. (C) AF/W

BENIN

-- GOB/LABOR STALEMATE ON WAGE HIKES CONTINUES:
The GOB continues to hold to the bottom line that there is
only nine billion CFA available, in whatever mix of
payments, to provide relief from the CFA devaluation's
impact. While more moderate labor leaders affear
realistic enough to be prepared to accept the GOB's offer,
a vocal minority seem bent on a "maximiz" approach which
includes impossible demands on limited GOB resources.
This latter group has made some headway due to media
ympathy and an insufficient effort to date by the GOB to
sell the overall government program on devaluation to the
grassroots. There is now growing concern that the leading
"maximalists" in fact have a political agenda and are
using the economic stress of the devaluation to strengthen
ersonal political positions. The GOB has begun to get
the message out to the public but must work quickly to

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OBTAINT A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE WAGE AGREEMENT OR RISK
GIVING SOGLO'S POLITICAL OPPONENTS VALUABLE AMMUNITION.

BURKINA FASO

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-- DEBT:

IN A NEW SPIRIT OF TRANSPARENCY, PERHAPS IN RESPONSE TO IMF CRITICISM, THE GOBF HAS BEGUN TO TALK PUBLICLY ABOUT THE STATE OF ITS FOREIGN DEBT. THE GOBF'S DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLIC DEBT HAS FAINTED A NONE TOO ROSY PICTURE (AN OVERALL POST-CFA DEVALUATION FOREIGN DEBT OF SOME USD 1.4 BILLION). NEVERTHELESS, THIS INDEBTEDNESS IS COMPARATIVELY LESS THAN MOST OF BURKINA'S PARTNERS IN THE CFA ZONE. ACCORDING TO THE AUTHORITIES, THE DEVALUATION OF THE CFA ALONE ADDED USD 26 MILLION TO THE SERVICING OF THE EXTERNAL DEBT. MOST OF THIS DEBT (76 PERCENT) IS DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCY AND THEREFORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO (NEGATIVE) EXCHANGE MARKET FLUCTUATIONS. MOREOVER, 55 PERCENT OF IT IS OWED TO THE IFI'S AND THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO EITHER CANCELLATION OR RESCHEDULING. THUS, WHILE WELCOME, FRANCE'S POST-DEVALUATION DEBT CANCELLATION DECISION LEAVES MOST OF BURKINA'S DEBT STILL TO BE PAID. BURKINA OWES NO OFFICIAL DEBT TO THE U.S.

COTE D'IVOIRE

-- A STATESMANLIKE BEDIE WELCOMES CLINTON LETTER:
RESIDENT BEDIE EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RECENT LETTER, DELIVERED BY OUR AMBASSADOR TAKING PARTICULAR NOTE OF ITS MENTION OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES. THE AMBASSADOR'S LEISURELY LUNCHEON MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT ALLOWED TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO EXPOUND SOME OF HIS VIEWS ON HOW HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROCEED WITH RUNNING THE COUNTRY. HE ALSO PROVIDED INSIGHTS INTO HIS PERSONAL MANAGEMENT

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STYLE.

THE PRESIDENT SEES HIS PRIMARY GOALS AS CONVINCING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEED FOR HARD WORK AND SELF-DISCIPLINE TO ACHIEVE A BETTER ECONOMY, OF ENSURING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT SERVES AS A POSITIVE, UNCORRUPT EXAMPLE TO THE PUBLIC, AND OF PROVIDING HIS COUNTRY WITH THE FULL-TIME MANAGEMENT IT REQUIRES. HE SEEMED UNCONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL THREATS TO HIS PRESIDENCY AND RE-ELECTION PROSPECTS, WHETHER FROM STUDENTS, ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS OR THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION. INTERESTINGLY, HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITIZING AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY, CLAIMING OTHERS SHOULD GET ON WITH THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK WHILE THE PRESIDENT REFLECTS, STUDIES, AND FOCUSES ON THE REALLY IMPORTANT DECISIONS. SUCH A GOVERNING STYLE, IF IT COMES TO PASS, WILL BE A MAJOR DEPARTURE PROBABLY FOR THE BETTER, FROM THE STYLE OF "LE VIEUX." OUR AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE OF PRESS FREEDOM WHICH HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF RECENT CONCERN.

GHANA

-- NORTHERN REGION STILL UNEASY:
AN ARMY/POLICE TASK FORCE RESTORED RELATIVE CALM IN GHANA'S NORTHERN REGION AFTER THE FEBRUARY CLASHES THAT LEFT WELL OVER 1,000 DEAD, BUT SPORADIC VIOLENT INCIDENTS CONTINUE. THE TASK FORCE IS DISARMING AS MANY INHABITANTS AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, MEMBERS OF THE KONKOMBA TRIBE CHIEF AGGRESSORS IN THE FEBRUARY FIGHTING, ARE HIDING IN THE BUSH AND NOT DISARMING, CAUSING UNEASE AMONG THE OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS THAT ARE COOPERATING MORE FULLY. THE GOG

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ADmits that the northern violence took it by surprise.
There is still no clear national security chain of command
to deal with the situation and no apparent plan to resolve
the underlying causes of the violence.

GUINEA

-- PRESIDENT CONTE ADDRESSES NATION:
THOSE WHO HAD HOPED TO HEAR THE LONG-AWAITED ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW CABINET WERE DISAPPOINTED BY GUINEAN PRESIDENT

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CONTE'S APRIL 2 BROADCAST NATIONAL ADDRESS. HOWEVER HE COVERED NOTEWORTHY ITEMS: DONOR AGREEMENT TO START CONSTRUCTION THIS YEAR OF THE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AT GARAFIRI; GUINEA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY WITH A MULTIPARTY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN DECEMBER 1993; AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD BY YEAR'S END.

-- IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS GUINEA:

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DR. ALY AKBAR VELAYATI VISITED CONAKRY ON MARCH 29 TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES. THE GOG AND ISLAMIC LEAGUE'S SECRETARY GENERAL DIMLY VIEW IRANIAN FUNDAMENTALISM, BUT IRANIAN ECONOMIC, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL INTERESTS IN GUINEA APPEAR TO BE INCREASING. THE GOI FINANCES A BAUXITE MINE PROJECT IN TOUGUE-DABOLA AND RELIGIOUS TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GUINEAN YOUTHS AND CERTAIN IMAMS TO WIN INFLUENCE AND SPREAD IRAN'S BRAND OF ISLAM.

-- GUINEA WELCOMES FOUR NON-WESTERN DIGNITARIES:
IN ADDITION TO IRAN, HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF
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VIETNAM, YUGOSLAVIA, AND NORTH KOREA VISITED GUINEA IN MARCH. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES TOLD EMBASSY CONAKRY THAT TIMING OF THESE VISITS HAD NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE OR ANTI-AMERICANISM INVOLVED. REPORTEDLY, THE GOG IS MAKING A PRAGMATIC EFFORT TO SEEK TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM ANY COUNTRY REGARDLESS OF ITS IDEOLOGICAL BENT.

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LIBERIA

-- LIBERIAN NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE -- SLOWLY:
THE LIBERIAN PEACE PROCESS CONTINUES TO BE

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PROBLEM-PLAGUED, BUT THERE ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE GORDON-SOMERS IS WORKING WITH THE FACTIONS TO RESOLVE THE POLITICAL IMPASSE RESULTING FROM THE NPFL BOYCOTT OF THE RECENTLY-INSTALLED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT (LNTG). THE POINT OF CONTENTION REVOLVES AROUND FOUR UNFILLED MINISTERIAL POSITIONS AND SEVERAL COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS ARE BEING EXAMINED. MILITARILY, ECOMOG HAS DEPLOYED TROOPS TO TUBMANBURG (SITE OF RECENT FIGHTING BETWEEN ULIMO FACTIONS) AND GBARGNA, THE NPFL HEADQUARTERS. ECOMOG AND ULIMO ARE ALSO CONTINUING EFFORTS TO END THE FIGHTING BETWEEN THE NPFL

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AND THE KRAHN-DOMINATED LPC, AND ECOMOG MAY SOON DEPLOY TROOPS TO CONTESTED AREAS TO SEPARATE THE CONTENDING MILITARY FORCES.

BY APRIL 22, THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL MUST DECIDE ON THE

EXTENSION OF THE UN MANDATE IN LIBERIA. THE BUREAU FAVORS EXTENDING THE MANDATE THROUGH AT LEAST UNTIL THE SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS, BUT THERE MIGHT BE PRESSURE FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE ADMINISTRATION TO PUSH FOR A SHORTER, 2-3 MONTH PERIOD. THE FINAL DECISION ON EXTENSION WILL BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE ABILITY OF THE LIBERIANS TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT POLITICAL AND MILITARY PROBLEMS WHICH ARE IMPEDING FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE PROCESS.

CONCURRENTLY TO WORKING WITH THE UN ECOMOG AND THE LIBERIANS TO UNBLOCK THE PEACE PROCESS, WE ARE ALSO PREPARING FOR INCREASED USG SUPPORT FOR THE NON-MILITARY COMPONENTS OF THE PROCESS. AN AID/STATE GROUP IS REVIEWING A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE CARTER CENTER FOR SUPPORTING THE SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS. ONCE THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN SCRUBBED, WE HOPE TO FIND FUNDING IN EXISTING ESF AND AREAFC ACCOUNTS. WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGING AID/WASHINGTON TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE DEMOBILIZATION EFFORT IN LIBERIA. ON APRIL 11, REPRESENTATIVES FROM AF/W AND AID WILL MEET WITH IAN DOUGLAS (THE POINT MAN FOR DEMOBILIZATION IN THE UN) TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS. GIVEN THE LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS OF THE BROOK AMENDMENT OUR ABILITY TO SUPPORT DEMOCRATIZATION/ELECTIONS OR DEMOBILIZATION WILL REQUIRE A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION

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ATTESTING TO THE PROGRESS BEING ACHIEVED ON THE GROUND IN
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LIBERIA.

MALI

-- OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE:
THE STUDENT LEADER JAILED FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE
FEBRUARY RIOTING AND VANDALISM, WHOSE CASE HAS BECOME AN
OPPOSITION CAUSE CELEBRE, REMAINS IN CUSTODY FOLLOWING A
COURT APPEARANCE ON APRIL 5. HIS DEFENSE LAWYER HAS
WITHDRAWN FROM THE CASE BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM
OPPOSITION LEADERS. OPPOSITION GROUPS HELD A PEACEFUL
MARCH ON APRIL 2 TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE
STUDENTS' CAUSE BUT FAILED TO ATTRACT LARGE NUMBERS OF
SUPPORTERS.

MAURITANIA

-- MAURITANIA'S MEDIA AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS:
MAURITANIAN JOURNALISTS AGREED AT A RECENT EMBASSY
NOUAKCHOTT DINNER-DEBATE THAT LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE
JANUARY/FEBRUARY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS HAD BEEN MORE
INFORMATIVE THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. ASSESSMENTS
DIFFERED OVER THE EXTENT OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESS'S

INFLUENCE ON VOTERS. GOVERNMENT-OWNED MEDIA HAVE MADE
LESS PROGRESS IN LIBERALIZING: RADIO COULD HAVE BEEN MORE
ENERGETIC IN REPORTING FRAUD AND T.V. ELECTION COVERAGE
WAS FAIRLY ANODYNE. THE DISCUSSION UNDERSCORED THE
ONGOING FERMENT IN MAURITANIAN SOCIETY AS IT LIBERALIZES
AFTER YEARS OF MILITARY RULE.

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-- MAURITANIAN FOREIGN AID UPDATE:
THREE YEARS AFTER THE GULF WAR, MAURITANIA IS BACK IN THE
GOOD GRACES OF MANY DONORS (NOTABLY FRANCE, THE EC, IMF,

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AFDB, WFP AND JAPAN) AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COURTING THEM IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, TARNISHED BY HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND A PRO-IRAQ TILT IN THAT WAR. NO GULF ARAB BILATERAL AID RETURNED BUT SOME MULTILATERAL FUNDING DID. OTHER ARAB AID REMAINS TOKEN. OVERALL AID LEVELS SLOWLY CREEP BACK TO PRE-WAR LEVELS WITH GRANTS INCREASINGLY THE PREFERRED AID FORM DONORS REMAIN LESS THAN SATISFIED WITH GIRL MANAGEMENT OF AID FUNDING, BUT AID LEVELS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE INCREASING, ALBEIT SLOWLY, IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

-- MAURITANIAN-SENEGALESE RELATIONS:

UNHERALDED IN THE MAURITANIAN MEDIA FOREIGN MINISTER LEKHAL'S MARCH 12 DAKAR TRIP WAS A GIRL-DESCRIBED ROUTINE VISIT TO ADVANCE NORMALIZATION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE REVIVAL OF THE "GRAND" BILATERAL COMMISSION LAST HELD IN 1987. CROSS-BORDER RAIDS BETWEEN MALI AND SENEGAL BY MAURITANIAN REFUGEES IN SENEGAL AND THE REFUGEES SITUATION WERE LIKELY DISCUSSED, ALTHOUGH LEKHAL TRAVELED WITHOUT OFFICIALS OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REFUGEE ISSUE. SENEGAL'S EMBASSY IN NOUAKCHOTT DESCRIBED BILATERAL RELATIONS AS RETURNING TO THEIR PRE-1989 STATE, EXPRESSING OPTIMISM THAT THE REFUGEE ISSUE WOULD BE RESOLVED SOON.

NIGER

-- OIL EXPLORATION IN NIGER:

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NIGERIA

-- MEDIA REACTION TO DECERTIFICATION MEASURED (SO FAR): THE NIGERIAN MEDIA GENERALLY TOOK A REASONED APPROACH TO INITIAL COVERAGE OF THE DECISION TO DENY COUNTERNARCOTICS CERTIFICATION. BUT FOREIGN MINISTER KINGIBE LATER CLAIMED THE U.S. DECISION WAS AN ATTEMPT TO PUNISH AND ISOLATE THE ABACHA REGIME. IT IS TOO EARLY TO KNOW HOW THE GON AND THE NIGERIAN PUBLIC WILL REACT AS DECERTIFICATION'S EFFECTS BECOME KNOWN.

-- ESTIMATING DECERTIFICATION'S IMPACT:
AN INTERAGENCY MEETING APRIL 7 REVIEWED PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO NIGERIA, SEEKING TO DETERMINE WHICH ARE PROTECTED, WHICH COULD BE PROTECTED IF A POLITICAL DECISION IS MADE TO DO SO, AND WHICH MUST BE TERMINATED. THE SESSION DREW FEW CONCLUSIONS BUT DID PROVIDE FOR

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EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACT BETWEEN CONCERNED BUREAUS AND AGENCIES.

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SENEGAL

-- DIOUF HOLDS LINE ON DETAINEES AND ECONOMIC MEASURES: AIMING TO THWART CRITICS AND ENCOURAGE CONFIDENCE, PRESIDENT DIOUF CALLED FOR DIALOGUE AND RESPECT FOR INSTITUTIONS IN A STERN APRIL 4 NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE. CRITICIZED FOR NOT SHOWING LEADERSHIP AND FAILING TO SPEAK OUT ON THE EVENTS OF FEBRUARY 16, HE HIT HARD AT THE RIOTS THAT LEFT EIGHT PERSONS DEAD AND DID NOT ANNOUNCE RELEASE OF THOSE OPPOSITION LEADERS JAILED IN CONNECTION WITH THE RIOTS, COMMITTING TO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE JUDICIARY'S

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WORK. DIOUF REASSURED THE NATION THAT LONG-TERM BENEFITS WOULD RESULT FROM THE CFA DEVALUATION DESPITE IMMEDIATE DIFFICULT CONSEQUENCES.

-- THE MOOD IN DAKAR AFTER OPPOSITION LEADERS' ARREST:

THE MOOD IN DAKAR IS PENSIVE, OUTWARDLY CALM, AS SENEGALESE DISCUSS THE CASE OF JAILED OPPOSITION LEADERS
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ABDOU LAYE WADE OF THE SENEGALESE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDS), AND JEF/PADS LEADER LANDING SAVANE, PDS DEPUTY PAPA OUMAR KAME, AND AT LEAST 150 OTHERS HELD FOR SUSPICION OF THREATENING STATE SECURITY AND INCITING PUBLIC DISORDER AFTER THE FEBRUARY 16 RIOTS WHICH LEFT SIX POLICEMEN KILLED. ALTHOUGH LEGAL UNDER FRENCH-BASED SENEGALESE LAW, GROUNDS FOR THEIR ARREST ARE THE TOPIC OF MUCH DISCUSSION AND GENESIS OF AT LEAST TWO PRO-OPPOSITION LEADERS DEMONSTRATIONS BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

-- GOS DELEGATION TO U.S.:

WE EXPECT A GOS DELEGATION TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL OFFICIALS. TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO COVER THE ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND CONCERNS FOR DEMOCRACY IN SENEGAL RAISED BY THE SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT'S DETENTION OF THE OPPOSITION LEADERS AND OTHERS AFTER THE FEBRUARY 16 RIOTS AND RELATED DEATHS.

SIERRA LEONE

-- UPDATE ON FIGHTING:

FIGHTING IN THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES SPILLED OVER INTO THE NORTHERN PROVINCE APRIL 1. CIVILIANS DISPLACED BY REBEL ATTACKS SOUGHT REFUGE IN MAKENI, THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, AND FREETOWN. FREETOWN NEVERTHELESS REMAINS QUIET. THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM IS ACTIVE AND ALL AMERICANS ARE REPORTED SAFE. REMNANTS OF THE REBEL REVOLUTIONARY UNITED FRONT (RUF) APPEAR RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THE ATTACKS, BUT DESERTERS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE MILITARY FORCES (RSLMF) MAY ALSO BE
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INVOLVED. THE REBELS ENGAGE IN EXTENSIVE LOOTING AND
BANDITRY, AND APPEAR TO LACK POLITICAL MOTIVATION. THE
FREETOWN GOVERNMENT IS INCREASINGLY ISOLATED AND UNPOPULAR.

TOGO

-- MORE SNAGS IN FORMULATING TOGO'S LEGISLATURE:
PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL INAUGURATION OF A NEW CABINET AND
LEGISLATURE HAVE DETERIORATED SIGNIFICANTLY IN RECENT
DAYS. THE SUPREME COURT, PACKED WITH PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S
SUPPORTERS, ANNULLED, [REDACTED] THE RESULTS
OF THREE OPPOSITION SEAT WINS. IN RESPONSE, THE
OPPOSITION HAS SUSPENDED PARTICIPATION IN THE
LEGISLATURE. THE PRESIDENT HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE
OPPOSITION'S PROPOSED CANDIDATE, YAOVI AGBOYIBOR, AS PRIME
MINISTER, DEMANDING INSTEAD A LIST OF CANDIDATES FROM
WHICH TO CHOOSE.

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11. (U) THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

-- NO REPORT THIS WEEK.

12. (U) CALENDAR 1994

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APRIL

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APR. 26-28: SOUTH AFRICAN MULTIRACIAL ELECTIONS.

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MAY 17: MALAWI PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
(TENTATIVE).

MAY 22: PRESIDENT DIOUF OF SENEGAL TO RECEIVE HONORARY
DOCTORATE DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

JUNE

////

JUNE 3: ETHIOPIAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTION.

AUGUST

/////

AUG. 28: MUNICIPAL AND DEPARTMENTAL ELECTIONS IN GABON.

END OF REPORT.

13. (LOU) A FINAL REMINDER: PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT
DISTRIBUTION IS RESTRICTED TO STATE PERSONNEL ONLY.

14. AF STADIS ONLY. ASMARA, BRAZZAVILLE, KINSHASA,
MOGADISHU AND LUANDA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. CHRISTOPHER
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